DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY JBaun DATE Aug 3, 1983
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July 20, 1967

Dear Congressman Downing:

I am writing in reply to your request for information concerning the circumstances surrounding the Israeli attack on the U.S.S. Liberty.

The Government of Israel informed us of the attack by its air and sea forces on the U.S.S. Liberty shortly after the attack took place on June 8. We have expressed in strongest terms our concern over this act, on the grounds that the Liberty was on a peaceful mission in international waters, and that there was ample opportunity for the attacking forces to identify the ship as American. The Israeli Government in turn expressed regret for what it has described as a tragic accident, sent condolences to the families of the men who lost their lives, and offered to make financial amends for the loss of life and for the material damage which resulted from this incident. The U.S. Government is currently compiling data for the purpose of submitting claims to the Government of Israel.

The U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry has completed a thorough study of the incident. The results of the investigation have been made public through a report issued by the Department of Defense. I have enclosed a copy of this report for your reference.

We have not yet received a full explanation from the Israeli Government in the sense that the action has been in any way justified. The Israelis themselves do not seem satisfied and are investigating further.

I hope this information is helpful. Please continue to let me know whenever you think I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

WBM

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable
Thomas M. Downing,
House of Representatives.

NEA/IAI:PCamarakis

July 21, 1967

typed in H- JCahill from language provided by NEA/IAI -7/20/67